

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 28, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by July 28, 2006.

Claims 1 and 4-8 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pataki et al. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keiczek. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19834867 to Burglar.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 3, 4, and 6-8, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, the specification has been amended to add standard headings and to delete reference to the claims.

The abstract has been amended to conform to the 150-word limit and to delete reference to Fig. 2.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the features of allowable claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claim 4 was amended to depend from claim 1, rather than claim 3.

Claim 1 therefore now stands in condition for allowance, as do the remaining dependent claims 4-8, all of which depend ultimately from amended claim 1.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this application on October 4, 2005. However, it appears that this IDS was not acknowledged by the Examiner.

It is respectfully requested that the IDS now be acknowledged, so that the duty of disclosure may be met.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application now stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss any remaining issues before moving the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
631-549-4700